

County of San Diego
Revised: October 4, 1999
Reviewed: Spring 2003

PARK RANGER
SENIOR PARK RANGER

Class No. 6332
Class No. 6342

DEFINITION:

To assist the visiting public in the use of County parks, forests, natural recreation, and historical areas; to perform park operational duties including administration, safety, rule enforcement, and maintenance; and to perform related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

The Park Ranger class series is allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation. This class series is responsible for providing professional and technical assistance to the public so that they may enjoy and safely use County parks, forests, natural recreation and historical areas. The Park Ranger class series is distinguished from the Park Maintenance class series in the latter is responsible for performing a variety of structural and grounds maintenance/repair work to County parks and its facilities.

Park Ranger:

This is the entry level of the Park Ranger series. Park Rangers perform both routine non-professional park operations duties as well as professional and technical park operation and management duties.

Senior Park Ranger:

Senior Park Ranger is a lead worker and/or first-line supervisor class. Under general supervision, Senior Park Rangers supervise and direct specific programs or activities in smaller, regional, day-use parks. Senior Park Ranger is distinguished from the next higher level, Supervising Park Ranger, in that the latter has overall responsibility for a regional park.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Interprets the natural and historical features of the park to park visitors; answers questions asked by the public; answers questions and explains park policies and regulations; patrols the park to enforce rules and regulations, and to safeguard and preserve park facilities; enforces cleanliness and sanitation standards; accounts for fees collected and cash disbursed; walks through parks to look for areas needing maintenance or repair; conducts environmental inventories of parks to detect fire hazards, plant diseases, insect infestations, etc.; initiates control measures to correct or control environmental hazards or conditions; prepares exhibits and publication materials; maintains records of park activities and prepares reports; performs construction, maintenance, and repair work; inspects and performs sanitation work; assists with the planning and assignment of work for auxiliary/temporary staff and volunteers in conducting area programs; monitors park usage by the public to enhance enjoyment and enforce standards of safety, civility and cleanliness; and performs related work as assigned.

Senior Park Ranger:

All the duties mentioned above and: supervises park staff, non-paid workers, volunteers and assignees; monitors park usage by the public; prepares programs interpreting the natural and historical features of the parks to visitors; fights fires

within the park; designs and directs the preparation of exhibits and publication materials; detects the need for, participates in and supervises the performance of, non-routine/routine construction, maintenance and repair work plans; supervises, inspects, and performs sanitation work; assigns, trains, and evaluates the work of subordinate park staff, non-park workers, volunteers and assignees; may provide roving relief for other park staff; may assume overall responsibility for a park in the absence of the Supervising Park Ranger; and performs related work as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: PR = Park Ranger
 SR = Senior Park Ranger

Knowledge of:

PR SR

T	T	Public relations in a park/recreation environment.
T	T	Principles of park and recreation facility management, operation, construction, restoration, utility repair, housekeeping, landscape maintenance, and equipment repair.
T	T	Principles and practices involved in protecting and maintaining park natural areas.
T	T	Principles, practices and methodology of developing and preparing historical and natural science interpretive programs, and exhibits.
G	T	Park and recreation planning principles.
G	T	Record keeping and report writing.
G	T	Natural resource management.
--	G	Supervision and training.
--	G	The General Management System in principle and practice.

Skills and Abilities to:

The following apply to both classes:

- Read, interpret, apply and enforce park rules and regulations, county ordinances, and state and federal laws related to the administration of park areas.
- Communicate effectively with park staff, park visitors and a wide variety of community groups.
- Interpret and follow written and oral instruction.
- Learn and apply techniques related to basic first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Plan, organize, direct and evaluate the work of others (i.e. temporary workers or volunteers).
- Perform basic arithmetic in collecting fees, making change, and accounting of fees.
- Conduct an environmental inventory and develop interpretive programs based on the inventory.
- Effectively use a wide variety of hand tools and certain power tools.
- Operate automotive and other mechanical equipment used in park operations and maintenance.
- Perform basic and intermediate maintenance on a variety of mechanical equipment used in the park.
- Establish and maintain effective working relations with those contacted during the course of work.

Senior Park Ranger (in addition to the above):

- Write clear, concise reports and correspondence.
- Develop and present park interpretive programs.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training and experience which clearly demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities listed above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Park Ranger:

1. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in parks and recreation management, natural resource management, cultural resource management, anthropology, history, biology, archaeology, public administration, business administration, recreation administration, or closely related field; OR,
2. Sixty (60) semester units of college-level course work from an accredited college or university toward a four-year degree in one of the fields described above; AND, one (1) year of full-time, paid experience in the operation, maintenance, and protection of a park, forest, natural recreational or historical area, or recreational programs; OR,
3. Two (2) years full-time, or equivalent, paid experience as described above. One (1) year full-time, or equivalent, volunteer experience may substitute for a maximum of one (1) year of full-time, or equivalent, paid experience; OR,
4. Two (2) years full-time experience as a Park Maintenance Worker with the County of San Diego.

Senior Park Ranger:

1. A Bachelor's degree as stated above in parks and recreation management, natural resource management, cultural resource management, anthropology, history, biology, archaeology, public administration, business administration, recreation administration or closely related field; AND, one (1) year full-time, paid experience as a Park Ranger in a park, forest, natural recreation or historic area; OR,
2. Sixty (60) semester units of college-level course work as stated above toward a four-year degree in one of the fields described above; AND, two (2) years of full-time experience at the level of a Park Ranger in a park, forest, natural recreational or historical area; OR,
3. Three (3) years full-time paid experience as a Park Ranger in a park, forest, natural recreational or historical area.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

License:

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment, which must be maintained throughout employment in these classes. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle.

Working Conditions:

Works shifts, which may include nights, weekends and holidays.

Physical Requirements:

Frequent and extensive walking, climbing or hiking. Lifts trash cans and similar weighted objects up to 50 pounds, and occasionally 75 pounds. Work requires the adherence to prescribed personal grooming standards and use of uniform work clothing.

Note:

May be required to reside in a county-owned dwelling during duty periods. This is a condition of employment in these classes.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of twelve months. (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).